



DEF 12
Department of State

TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: 799

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01157 201354Z

49

ACTION EUR 20

INFO IO 13, NEA 13, ACDA 16, MC 01, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 01,

L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, NIC 01,

RSR 01, 130 W

072357

R 201300Z MAR 69
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1646
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE *7/5/80*
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 1157

SUBJ: FIRST SOVIET EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ON ABM DECISION

1. PRAVDA (MARCH 20) CARRIES A "COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN" BY V. ZORIN ON US DEVELOPMENT OF AN ABM SYSTEM. WITHOUT IN ANY WAY MENTIONING THE PRESIDENT, ZORIN STATES THAT THE "MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX" IN US, NOT WAITING FOR WAR IN VIETNAM TO END, IS ALREADY PLANNING TO INCREASE PROFITABLE MILITARY ORDERS BY DEVELOPING AN ABM SYSTEM COSTING MORE THAN ON HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS. CITING US PRESS REPORTS, ZORIN WRITES THAT GENERAL WESTMORELAND HAS SIGNED ORDER NUMBER 36011 PERMITTING THE PENTAGON TO DEVELOP A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF THE SYSTEM, WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN MILITARY MACHINE, MUST BE CREATED AS A LOGICAL CONTINUATION OF THE SENTINEL SYSTEM. HE CLOSES BY WARNING THAT INFLUENTIAL FORCES IN THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX ARE STRIVING TO UNLEASH A NEW ROUND IN THE ARMS RACE, AND THAT THIS IS A "DANGEROUS TREND."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: 22

01157 201354Z



Department of State

TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01157 201354Z

2. COMMENT: ZORIN CONTINUES THE SOVIET PRACTICE OF CAREFULLY AVOIDING DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT ON THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE. BY IGNORING WHAT THE PRESIDENT ACTUALLY SAID ABOUT HOW THE PROGRAM WOULD DEVELOP AND BY CITING THE FIGURE OF ONE HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS, ZORIN OBVIOUSLY IS ATTEMPTING TO PRESENT THE CASE IN ITS MOST EXTREME FORM, BUT TO LAY BLAME ON THE PENTAGON AND NOT THE PRESIDENT. ZORIN AVOIDS ANY IMPLICATION THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION MIGHT AFFECT POSSIBLE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS WITH MOSCOW. SWANK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

01157 201354Z